

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawing sheet or sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figure(s) 1-8 are being presented as new formal drawing. The drawing figures 2-3 have been amended. Appended to this amendment is an annotated copy of the previous drawing sheet which has been marked to show changes presented in the replacement sheet of the drawing.

The following lists the specific changes made to the Figures . In Fig. 2, reference numerals 10, 16, and 26 have been added. In Fig. 3, reference numerals 10, 16, and 26 have been added.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Claim 1 is currently being amended. Claims 1-6 are now pending in this application.

The PTO has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,237,943 to Brown. For at least the following reasons, this rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 of the present invention claims a method for folding an airbag comprising the steps of :

“folding the first bottom longitudinal edge toward the first top longitudinal edge wherein a first bottom fold is formed about one-eighth to one-tenth of the total width of the airbag; wherein the first bottom forms a second bottom longitudinal edge;

folding the second bottom longitudinal edge toward the first top longitudinal edge wherein a second bottom fold is formed about one-half to one-fifth of the width of the first bottom fold;

folding the second bottom fold toward the first top longitudinal edge thereby forming a first plurality of folds extending to about one-eighth to one-fifth of the width of the airbag from the first top longitudinal edge...

folding the backside of the first plurality of folds to the first top longitudinal edge to form at least one additional roll; and

folding the second edge beneath the inflator to form a third fold wherein the third fold is formed beneath the inflator.”

In contrast, Brown teaches a method of folding an airbag that includes the step of folding a bottom longitudinal edge 80a toward a top longitudinal edge 80b but the fold is formed about one-half of the total width of the airbag and is not formed about one-eighth to one-tenth of the total width of the airbag. Brown also discloses the step of folding the bottom fold 84 toward the top longitudinal edge thereby forming a first plurality of folds. However, Brown does not teach (1) a second fold that is formed about one-half to one-fifth of the width of the first bottom fold; (2) the step of folding the backside of the first plurality of folds to form at least one additional roll; and (3) the step of folding the second edge beneath the inflator to form a third fold wherein the third fold is formed beneath the inflator. Because Brown does not teach all the required steps, claim 1 is not anticipated by Brown.

Also, claims 2-6 are not anticipated by Brown for at least the same reasons as claim 1 from which they depend.

For at least these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

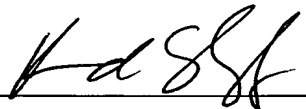
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

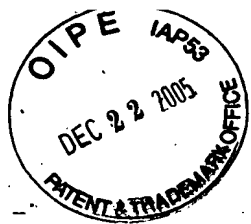
Respectfully submitted,

Date 12/22/05

By 

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ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGE(S)

Title: HEAD SIDE AIRBAG CUSHION FOLD

Inventor(s): Paul G. MAERTENS et al.

Appl. No.: 10/816,443

